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STEPHEN D. COAN
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Electrical Cause of Fatal Bridgewater Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Bridgewater Fire Chief George W. Rogers Jr. said the cause of the April 23, 2012 fire at 70 Winter Street, Bridgewater was electrical. The fire took the life of 48-year old Dianne Anderson who lived in the one-family home. Investigators determined that the fire was electrical and started in the kitchen behind the refrigerator where both the stove and refrigerator were plugged in.

Coan said, "As smoking declines as a cause of fire deaths, electrical emerged as the leading cause of home fire deaths in 2011." According to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS), electrical fires were the leading cause of fire deaths in 2011, causing ten, or 25%, of home fire deaths.

Chief Rogers said, "This fire was a terrible tragedy and we offer our deepest condolences to Ms. Anderson's family, friends and neighbors."

The fire was jointly investigated by members of the Bridgewater Fire Department, Bridgewater Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and to Office of District Attorney Timothy Cruz. Assistance was received from the Code Compliance Unit in the Department of Fire Services.

Coan said, "Our electrical needs are constantly growing so it is important from time to time to have a professional perform a check-up of the electrical systems in our homes, just like taking the car to the mechanic. While major repairs can be costly, minor tune-ups can keep the system in good shape for a long time."

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